

ACOUSTIC AWARDS 2023

Now in their 10th year, the ANC awards highlight the unique skills of UK based acoustic and noise professionals, and the dynamic and diverse nature of the industry overall, to inspire the next generation of acoustic consultants. These accolades demonstrate excellence among ANC members in addressing challenges, championing innovation and originality and showcasing the significance of a profession which blends art and science to transformational effect.

Environmental Noise: Non infrastructure



WINNER • **WSP: Offshore Piling Monitoring**

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This project concerns the offshore piling noise at the Hinkley Point power station. Once the piling work had commenced, a significant number of complaints were received from the local community who claim they were being awoken by the noise. The acoustic consultants were initially engaged to provide only specialist monitoring services to demonstrate compliance with noise limits derived during the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. This soon evolved to also providing expert advice on managing the noise impacts to the local community and contributing to methods which ultimately assisted them in meeting their programme without incurring substantial additional costs.

The challenging project programme, heavily influenced by costs associated with the hire of the piling vessel in combination with the noise disturbance reported by the local community, resulted in the need for a very client focused and flexible approach to the noise monitoring. Fully integrating

into the project team and providing technical advice and support in addition to noise monitoring during piling allowed the programme to be achieved (and costs to be kept low) whilst minimising noise disturbance to the local community and meeting the DCO noise limits.

The judges recognised the challenges that this project presented, noting that programme costs were minimised, and the piling was carried out with minimal impact on the local communities. They were impressed by the decision to provide fully attended monitoring for each piling exercise, which enabled instant reaction to events whatever hour they occurred. The judges liked the provision of "ready-reckoning" tables to the piling vessel crew so they could understand the effect of their work and make changes so noise levels were reduced. This approach could be applicable to similar projects. There was excellent collaboration with the community and client as reflected in the comments of EDF Project Manager.

EDF Project Manager said:

"WSP were instrumental in ensuring a robust approach to a highly evolving scope by providing expert advice and assistance during set up of the arrangements as well as monitoring services on site. The monitoring schedule remained extremely fluid throughout with the need to react to a number of external factors that affected timings and WSP were highly flexible, attending site at short notice whilst remaining diligent and professional throughout."

